

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 15 and 16 without prejudice and substitute for corresponding pending claims the claims as shown rewritten below with amendments effected therein. Appendix I is attached hereto having marked versions of said claims with amendments indicated by brackets and underlining.

Sub 91
D3
1. (Amended) A flexible resin boot, comprising:

structure including a first port and a second port that are connected with each other via a bellows therebetween, said structure being molded from a molding material comprising a mixture of a thermoplastic elastomer resin and mineral oil.

Sub 92
D4
9. (Twice Amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 27, wherein the aromatic content of said mineral oil is from 0 to 10 %.

D5
10. (Amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 1 or 9, wherein said mixture includes at most 5 parts by weight of the mineral oil to 100 parts by weight of the thermoplastic elastomer resin.

11. (Amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 1 or 9, wherein the mineral oil has a number-average molecular weight of from 200 to 2000.

12. (Amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 1 or 9, wherein the mineral oil has a weight-average molecular weight of from 100 to 2000.

D5
cont'd

13. (Amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 1 or 9, wherein the mineral oil has a Z-average molecular weight of from 200 to 3000.

14. (Amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 1 or 9, wherein the mineral oil has a kinematic viscosity of from 100 to 1000 mm²/sec(25°C) as determined by measurement with a B-type viscometer.

17. (Amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 1 or 9, wherein a degree of swelling of the thermoplastic elastomer resin in the mineral oil is at most 8 % by volume.

D6

18. (Amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 1 or 9, wherein a degree of swelling of the thermoplastic elastomer resin in the mineral oil is at most 6 % by weight.

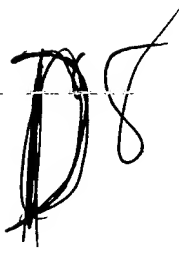
D7

26. (Amended) The flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 1 or 9, wherein a paraffin content of the mineral oil is from 60 to 78 %, and a naphthene content of the mineral oil is from 20 to 35 %.

Please add the following new claims:

--27. A flexible resin boot as claimed in claim 1, wherein an aromatic content of said mineral oil is not greater than 13 %.

28. A resin boot, comprising:

 structure including a first port and a second port connected with each other via a bellows therebetween, said structure being comprised of a flexible material containing a thermoplastic elastomer resin and mineral oil, an aromatic content of said mineral oil being not greater than 13 %.--